amounts almost to Rs. 5000 crores and this is cornered by non-poor urban passengers; and

(d) whether Government are aware that high freight tariff diverts business to other modes of transport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The recommendations of the Committee are under examination by a Committee of Senior Railway officers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Barring a few commodities such as salt, fruits, vegetables etc., which are carried below the cost of operation by an amount of Rs. 245 crores, freight traffic in 2000-01 cross-subsidised the passenger traffic and other coaching services to the extent of Rs. 4875 crores, including Rs. 659 crores suburban services in metropolitan cities.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Jammu-Udhampur Rail Link Project

1009. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jammu-Udhampur rail link project, which was initiated 20 years back, still remains a dream;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during this long period three construction companies have come and gone and a sum of Rs. 1.42 crore remains to be realized from the defaulting contractors, who were awarded contract by throwing all rules to the wind;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether recovery of the outstanding dues has not been made so far, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when this project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Jammu-Udhampur rail link project was started in 1982 and is in advanced stage of completion.

(b) and (c) The work had been awarded to the agencies after following proper rules and procedures. Specific comments cannot be given as the name of companies are not known.

(d) The project is expected to be completed during 2003-2004.

Amount payable by the Railways to IISCO

1010. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of approximately Rs. 10.34 crore is payable to Indian Iron and Steel Company by the Railways including Central, Northern, North Eastern, Eastern Railways etc.;

(b) whether a sum of Rs. 18.84 crore is also payable by the South Eastern Railway to Indian Iron and Steel Company, as on 31st December, 2000 as per the award given by the arbitrator; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Railways to clear the dues, in view of the acute financial crisis of Indian Iron and Steel Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. An amount of Rs. 98.35 lakh only is payable by the following: Railways/units:—

Northern Railway	-	Rs. 73.65 lakh
North Eastern Railway	-	Rs. 21.97 lakh
Diesel Locomotive Works	-	Rs. 2.73 lakh
Total Rs.	-	**98.35 lakh**

(b) and (c) The matter is currently under examination.